

ABSTRACTModification of Plant Fibres

The invention relates to the isolation and characterisation of novel expansin gene sequences from heterologous and homologous tree species and re-introducing such novel genes into trees so as to alter expansin levels. Six novel genes have been identified. Eucalyptus has also been transformed using the cucumber EX29 sequence (GenBank, Accession No. U30382 - known as Cs-EXP1). A change in the plant height and internode length was observed compared with control plants.